

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DLOS-06 EB-11 AID-20 ACDA-19

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10

NIC-01 DRC-01 /225 W

----- 107273

R 151125Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2720

INFO AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT CB

SUBJECT: KHMER ISSUE AT ECAFE AND LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. THE ISSUE OF KHMER REPRESENTATION WILL APPARENTLY CONTINUE TO BE A MATTER OF MAJOR CONCERN AT UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING ECAFE AND LAW OF THE SEA. WHILE NOT REPORTING REGULARLY ON DEVELOPMENTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC OCCASIONALLY INFORMATION HAS BECOME AVAILABLE TO THIS MISSION WHICH WE HAVE THOUGHT SUFFICIENTLY RELEVANT TO REPORT. A CASE IN POINT IS CAN THO A-008 FEB 20 1974 " THE KHMER KRAHOM PROGRAM TO CREATE A COMMUNIST SOCIETY IN SOUTHERN CAMBODIA." COMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF CLANDESTINE REPORTING AND EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH KHMER REFUGEES IN SVN, THE AIRGRAM PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE HARSH REGIME IMPOSED ON THE POPULATION AND ON DEEP DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE KHMER COMMUNISTS AND NON-COMMUNIST DISSIDENTS IN SOUTHERN CAMBODIA WHICH MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL IF DECLASSIFIED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS WHICH MAY BE WAVERING ON THE KHMER RECOGNITION ISSUE.

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2. SPECIFICALLY WE BELIEVE PAGES 24-26, WHICH RELATE REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE BUDDHIST AND MOSLEM RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES MIGHT HAVE AN IMPACT ON COUNTRIES WHERE THOSE RELIGIONS ARE A MAJOR FACTOR. PAGES 27-35 DEAL WITH CONFISCATION OF LAND FORCED POPULATION MOVEMENT, AND "ECONOMIC LEVELING" WHICH THROWS LIGHT ON THE HARSH ECONOMIC MEASURES IMPOSED INSTANTLY BY THE COMMUNISTS IN AREAS THEY CONTROL. PAGES 19 AND 20 REFLECT THE SYSTEM OF TERROR AND PUNISHMENT USED TO CONTROL SUBJECT POPULATIONS. FINALLY, THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE KHMER KRAHOM (COMMUNIST) AND KHMER RUMDOAN (NON-COMMUNIST DISSIDENT ELEMENTS) IS OUTLINED IN PAGES 6-9. THIS INFORMATION MIGHT ASSIST IN EXPLAINING WHY THE GRUNK CANNOT LEGITIMATELY CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE KHMER PEOPLE.

3. WE OF COURSE DEFER TO PHNOM PENH'S JUDGEMENT ON THE ACCURACY AND RELEVANCE OF THE INFORMATION IN CAN THO 008 BUT FROM OUR PERIPHERAL VANTAGE POINT CONSIDERATION OF THIS INFORMATION FOR DECLASSIFICATION AND SELECTIVE RELEASE WOULD SEEM A WORTHWHILE EXERCISE.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, MEMBER ADMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON03475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740339/aaaabkzk.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER ISSUE AT ECAFE AND LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, OCON, CB, ECAFE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005